

Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission

An advisory body to the California State Board of Education

FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING: April 9, 2004

(Approved on May 20, 2004)

Report of Action

Friday, April 9, 2004

Curriculum Commissioners Present:

Edith Crawford, Chair

Dr. Norma Baker, Vice Chair

William Brakemeyer

Milissa Glen-Lambert

Jackie Goldberg, Assembly Member

Kerry Hamill

Wendy Levine

Dr. Sandra Mann

Julie Maravilla

Michael Matsuda

Mary-Alicia McRae

Dr. Stan Metzenberg

Dr. Charles Munger, Jr.

José Velasquez

Richard Wagoner

Curriculum Commissioners Absent

Dr. Deborah Keys

Rosa Perez

John Vasconcellos, Member of the Senate

State Board of Education Liaisons

1. Full Curriculum Commission:

Called to Order: 9:03 a.m. by Chair Crawford.

1.B. Salute to the Flag led by Commissioner Matsuda.

1.C. Overview of the Agenda:

Chair Crawford introduced Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg who was recently appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly to serve on the Curriculum Commission. She noted the only change to the agenda was a time change. Deb Sigman will be giving the assessment update at 11:15 a.m.

1.D. Approval of minutes for January 2004 Meeting:

A comment was made prior to the call for a motion to approve the January 2004 minutes. Commissioner Goldberg suggested that when referencing public comments, a short summary of the nature of the comment should be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Brakemeyer moved to approve the January 2004 draft minutes.

Commissioner Levine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of minutes for the January and February 2004 Mathematics Teleconferences:

Commissioner Baker moved to approve the January and February 2004 Mathematics Teleconferences draft minutes with minor corrections. Commissioner Metzenberg seconded the motion. Commissioner Goldberg abstained. The motion carried.

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1.E. Report of the Chair:

Chair Crawford reported that the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted new criteria for evaluating K-8 instructional materials for science. The Commission's recommendations were accepted, but the SBE chose to make modifications. The main point of change was in the area of hands-on activities. The Board accepted the Commission's recommendation of having hands-on activities as 20-25% of the science instructional program; however, the SBE wanted materials that have "at least 20-25%." The SBE shared the Commission's concern that science materials must be aligned to the standards and that materials not aligned to the standards will not be adopted. Chair Crawford expressed the Commission's gratitude to Rae Belisle, Executive Director of the SBE, for creating a consensus on the science criteria. With the changes, the criteria received universal acceptance. In addition, Chair Crawford stated that the SBE finds the Commission's work on updating the Mathematics Framework impressive and the SBE has directed the Commission to complete the entire Mathematics Framework revision before sending it out for field review. The draft criteria is the only remaining piece that needs to be completed. Lastly, Chair Crawford reported on the successful completion of the 2004 Health Adoption Training, which took place April 6-8.

1.F. Executive Director's Report:

Thomas Adams reported that the Science and History-Social Science Frameworks would be reprinted in the upcoming year with the new criteria. In addition, Dr. Adams reported on the resolution of issues with the SBE adopted Open Court English Language Development (ELD) components of the program. He noted that the replacement ELD materials would be shipped to schools in the last week of April. Lastly, Dr. Adams reported that the workshops on the 2005 History-Social Science Adoption, which were held at the California Council for Social Studies, were well received.

1.G. Report from the State Board of Education:

Rae Belisle, Executive Director, SBE, gave an update on the Open Court ELD materials. In addition, she stated that the SBE requests that the Commission complete the entire Mathematics Framework revision, including the criteria, before sending it out for field review. The SBE suggests that there be linkages between 6-8 week summative assessments in the instructional materials and what students will see on the STAR tests (i.e. that they be predictive). Ms. Belisle also commented on the SBE's trend toward increased flexibility on waivers for high-performing districts.

1.H. Correspondence/Requests from the State Board of Education:

The Commissioners had in their meeting packet an extensive amount of correspondence on the science criteria.

1.I. Report of the California Department of Education:

Susan Stickel, Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction Branch, reported on Superintendent Jack O'Connell's February speech on his priorities and high school initiative, including the implementation of a standards review for grades 9-12 instructional materials.

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1.J. Assessment Update:

Deb Sigman, Division Director, Standards and Assessment Division, reported on assessment issues, focusing on California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), California English Language Development Test (CELDT), and Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessment programs.

1.K. Legislation/Budget Update:

Suzanne Rios, CDE Administrator, provided an overview of the state budget developments since the January meeting.

1.L. Other Matter/Public Comment: None

2. Executive Committee:

2.A. Textbook Weight

Chair Crawford provided an overview of the issue. She stated that the legislation called for the SBE to set textbook weight standards. This issue was handed to the Curriculum Commission with the understanding that none of the Commission's proposals could affect the academic content standards, increase costs, or limit access to instructional materials. The Commission has examined various options and found that publishers already have the right to submit an alternate format of instructional materials. This includes producing materials in electronic format, split volumes, and soft cover versions. Chair Crawford then recapped the January presentation on the effects of reducing paperweight from 45-lb. paper to 40-lb. paper. According to paper industry analysts, the result of imposing a change would be increased costs, reduced durability, and decreased readability. Chair Crawford stated that she had met with SBE staff, CDE leadership, and the leadership of the American Association of Publishers in which all parties agreed that the current proposal was the best option available at this juncture.

Dr. Adams then provided an overview of the recommendations in the proposal. The recommendations with some slight modification are:

1. No single program is excessive, but together all present a danger. Students who carry their books in RLA, mathematics, science, and history-social science will exceed the maximum recommended weight for students.
2. Setting an absolute weight cap alone is not the answer to the complicated issue of student burdens. This would increase costs and require the CDE to set production specifications. This type of extensive regulation was abandoned when the state discontinued to produce its own textbooks.
3. The SBE should consider requiring publishers to provide local districts with purchasing options for lighter-weight materials, such as split volumes, electronic editions, or classroom sets.
4. Recommend that the following threshold weights for requiring a lighter-weight option. Any textbook that is over the recommended weight for the appropriate grade level would have to be accompanied by a lighter-weight option that districts

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would have the option to purchase for their students. Threshold weight, single-volume students edition textbooks:

- Grades K-4: 3 lbs.
- Grades 5-8: 4 lbs.
- Grades 9-12: 5 lbs.

5. Recommend that these standards, like other criteria, will take affect in adoption cycles beginning after the SBE adopts standards.

After discussion, the Commission had additional recommendations to append to the report:

- Notification sent to parents/districts on the issue of weight and making them aware of alternatives.
- Districts may wish to look at their own options, including privatization of lockers.
- Districts should be encouraged to adopt their own solutions to backpack weight.

Motion made by Commissioner Metzenberg to forward the report with changes and recommend that SBE or CDE send to districts an advisory with creative solutions and deal forthrightly with student health issues, and that the SBE review the policy/weight standards periodically. Seconded by Commissioner Baker. The motion carried.

2.B. Public Comment: None.

2.C. Other Matters

Commissioner Goldberg has requested to be assigned to the following subcommittees: reading language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science. Commissioner Baker moved that Commissioner Goldberg be assigned to the reading language arts/English language development, mathematics, science, and history-social science subject matter committees. Commissioner Metzenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

3. Mathematics Subject Matter Committee (SMC):

3.A. SMC Chair Norma Baker called the Mathematics SMC meeting to order. She gave an update on the draft Mathematics Framework. Chair Baker informed commissioners that the draft Mathematics Framework had been approved at the January 2004 meeting and that the full commission had empowered the SMC to develop criteria for algebra readiness and intervention programs. After holding several teleconferences in January and February, it was determined that a smaller committee, including with field colleagues, would develop the criteria.

The three types of submission that need to be reflected in the criteria for evaluating instructional materials in mathematics are:

- 1) Basic grade-level programs for grades K-8
- 2) Mathematics Intervention programs for grades 4-7
- 3) Algebra Readiness Programs for grade 8

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Don Kairott, Administrator of the Curriculum Frameworks Unit reported that staff was moving the whole process forward and that a short mathematics seminar would be held after the May 21st Curriculum Commission meeting. The seminar would include the descriptions of programs from various mathematics entities, including, education foundations and publishers. The responses, in the form of a summary, would be sent to commissioners for their review prior to the May meeting. The responses would be reviewed for entry/exit criteria, assessment, standards-alignment, among other criteria.

Joining the seminar on May 21st will be Pat Duckhorn, mathematics specialist with the Sacramento County Office of Education and Chris King, mathematics specialist from the Stanislaus County Office of Education. They will share with the commission and staff their material and work with schools and districts. Mr. Kairott stated that all components of the presentation would serve as information to inform the development of the criteria. He also stated that the draft framework and criteria would be posted for the public field review as soon as the criteria is developed and approved by the mathematics subject matter committee. Sherry Willibrand, retired county office mathematics specialist, spoke briefly. She stated that she applauds the work done by staff and that the California Mathematics Council, which she was representing, looks forward to giving feedback on the draft framework.

There was no further business, so Chair Baker adjourned the meeting.

4. History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee (SMC):

SMC Vice-Chair Michael Matsuda called the History-Social Science SMC meeting to order.

4.A. Vice Chair Matsuda stated that the first Publishers' Bulletin for the 2005 History-Social Science Primary adoption was distributed in February 2004 to publishers interested in the adoption. This Bulletin contains publisher's questions and answers related to the adoption criteria. Next, the committee discussed the K-8 History-Social Science Standards Maps and instructions for completing them which were presented for information and action. The maps are organized by grade-level standards and include the analysis skills within each grade level. These maps will be completed by publishers to identify the alignment of their materials to the standards and will be submitted with their instructional materials in April 2005. In addition, the Instructional Materials Advisory Panel (IMAP) members and Content Review Panel (CRP) experts will use these maps to verify the alignment of the instructional materials with the standards. CFIR staff will revise the instructions to publishers to provide more direction on completion of the maps, especially as they relate to the analysis skills.

Vice Chair Matsuda called for a motion to approve the K-8 History-Social Science Standards Maps for the 2005 adoption. Commissioner Glen-Lambert made the motion

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to approve the K-8 History-Social Science Standards Maps as submitted. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

4.B. Other Matters/Public Comment: None

5. Full Curriculum Commission Reconvenes:

5.A. Reports/Action from Subcommittees:

Executive Committee:

Item #1: Approve the textbook weight recommendation. Commissioner Baker made the motion to approve the textbook weight recommendation as approved by the Executive Committee. Commissioner Brakemeyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

History-Social Science Subject Matter Committee:

Item #1: Approve the K-8 History-Social Science Standards Maps for the 2005 adoption. Commissioner Brakemeyer made the motion to approve the K-8 History-Social Science standards map as submitted by staff. Commissioner McRae seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5.B. Reports from Commission Liaisons: None

5.C. Individual Commissioners Reports: None

Commissioner Maravilla requested more observation of religious holidays (i.e. Good Friday) when scheduling Commissions meetings in the future.

5.D. Other Matters/Public Comment:

Comment made by Kendall Vaught, California Teachers Association, raised the issue of instructional time being insufficient to cover all of the adopted curricula. She encourages the Commission to incorporated more integration of curriculum across the subject areas when developing future frameworks.

The Curriculum Commission meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

For further information about the minutes, please contact the Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission or the Curriculum Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division Office, California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Room 3207, Sacramento, CA, 95814; telephone (916) 319-0881; fax (916) 319-0161.